

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7560

BILL NUMBER: SB 329

DATE PREPARED: Apr 10, 2001

BILL AMENDED: Apr 9, 2001

SUBJECT: Candidate Deadlines; Voter's Bill of Rights; Extension of Voting Hours.

FISCAL ANALYST: Chris Baker

PHONE NUMBER: 232-9851

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *Candidate Filing Deadline:* The bill provides that a petition of nomination must be filed for certification not later than noon June 30. It provides that a candidate may withdraw a petition of nomination by noon July 15 before a general or municipal election. This bill also provides that a county voter registration office must certify and file a petition of nomination not later than noon July 15 following the date of the primary election. The bill provides that the names of candidates nominated by a state convention must be certified not later than noon July 15 before the general election. It provides that a candidate vacancy for an office required to be nominated at a state convention that failed to nominate a candidate must be filled not later than noon June 30. The bill also provides that an early candidate vacancy, except a candidate vacancy created by the death of a candidate, the withdrawal of a candidate, or the disqualification of a candidate, must be filled not later than noon June 30 after the primary election.

Voter's Bill of Rights: This bill requires the Election Commission to prescribe a statement of the rights of a voter in Indiana. It specifies the kind of information that the statement must contain. The bill also provides that the Commission may require the Voter's Bill of Rights to be distributed with registration and other election-related materials. It requires the Voter's Bill of Rights to be posted on the state's Internet elections website. The bill requires the Secretary of State to request Indiana news media to include a copy of the Voter's Bill of Rights as part of election coverage or in public service announcements before an election. It requires the Voter's Bill of Rights to be posted in every precinct polling place on each election day.

Extension of Voting Hours: This bill requires the polls in each precinct in a county to close at 7 p.m., instead of 6 p.m., on election day. The bill also provides that the time that half-day precinct election officers change is 12:30 p.m. rather than noon election day. It also makes these changes effective beginning for elections held beginning in 2004.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Candidate Filing Deadlines:* No Fiscal Impact.

Voter's Bill of Rights: The bill as amended requires the Election Commission to prescribe the Voter's Bill of Rights. The Commission may require copies of the Voter's Bill of Rights to be distributed with voter registration materials or other materials given to voters. It is estimated that the printing and distribution costs of the Voter's Bill of Rights could be absorbed in the FY 2002 budget year. However, the Commission may require additional funds in future budget years for this provision. Posting of the Voter's Bill of Rights on the web site of the Secretary of State or other State web sites is expected to generate no additional cost to the State.

The Secretary of State would also be required to request the Indiana news media to include a copy of the Voter's Bill of Rights in a public service announcement (PSA). Production of a minimal PSA is estimated in a range of \$500 to \$600. A minimal PSA could include still frames with a background narrator or voice over. An upper end PSA requiring camera time with an actor or actress, animated logos, lighting, and editing would require additional expenditures. It is estimated that production of an upper end PSA could require expenditures ranging from \$2,000 to \$20,000.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *Voter's Bill of Rights:* The County Election Board would have increased expenditures for the purchase of signs and printing of the required text as provided by the bill. Each polling place would be required to have a sign with the required text posted. Currently, there are 5,530 precincts in the State. Larger counties (e.g., Marion County with 917 precincts) provide a single polling place for more than one precinct, such as within a school. The impact would be the cost of producing a sign for every polling place in all 92 counties. These expenses would be paid for out of county general funds.

Extension of Voting Hours: As amended, the bill moves from 12 p.m. until 12:30 p.m. the time that a precinct election officer, with the exception of the precinct inspector, would serve on a half-day basis. In addition, the hours of polling locations would increase by an hour on election days. Both provisions would begin with elections held in 2004.

Currently, precinct election officers are appointed by the County Election Board, except in Lake County where the officers are appointed by a combination of an Election Board and Registration Board. A precinct has the following officers:

Type of Officer	Number
Inspector	1
Judge	2
Poll Clerk	2
Sheriff	2
Asst. Poll Clerk	2 (Optional)

The County Executive is allowed by State statute to fix a per diem and a meal allowance for work performed on election day by the above listed officers. For municipal elections, a town fiscal body fixes compensation.

In addition, an inspector can receive additional compensation for the duties of acquisition and return of election supplies to the Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

5,530 precincts existed in Indiana during the most recent general election.

Beginning with elections held in 2004, changes to local expenditures would depend on the decision of each County Executive or town fiscal body on whether to increase the election day per diem to account for the additional hour that the voting polls would be open. Expenses that are not personnel-related would also depend on each precinct's requirements for use of election supplies and facilities for an additional hour.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Office of the Secretary of State, Indiana Election Commission.

Local Agencies Affected: County Election Boards, Counties, Towns, Precincts.

Information Sources: Spencer Valentine, Co-Director, Indiana Election Division, (317) 232-3939; Lori Hershberger, Indiana Elections Division, (317) 232-3939; Jamie Berns, Production Manager, WXIN 59, (317) 632-5900.